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10/763,625

01/22/2004

Yaacov Almog

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02/07/2007

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION

FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

FERGUSON, LAWRENCE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1774

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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3 MONTHS

02/07/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/763,625

Applicant(s)

ALMOG ET AL.

Examiner

Lawrence D. Ferguson

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1774

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 June 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 38-58 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 43-58 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 38 and 40-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to the amendment mailed November 14, 2006.
Claim 38 was amended and claim 39 was cancelled rendering claims 38 and 40-58 pending with claims 48-58 withdrawn as a non-elected invention.

RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

2. Applicant's election with traverse of a print media and a method of producing a coated substrate to which a toner image can be adhered is acknowledged. Upon further consideration Examiner will examine claims 43-47 along with claims 38 and 40-42. Regarding claims 48-58, the traversal is on the grounds that 'if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims distinct or independent inventions.' M.P.E.P. 803. The search of the 2 classes and subclasses would entail the requisite serious burden as the search for method of making is not the same as the article search. Additionally, the steps used in the method claims would not be expected to appear in the class/subclass of the product claims. Every coated substrate is not made using the same method steps.

The requirement is deemed proper and is therefore made **FINAL**.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103(a)

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 38 and 40-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lever et al. EP 0458481.

Lever discloses a coated substrate suitable for printing a toner image thereon comprising a film or sheet made of cellulose (paper), which may also be inclusive of plastic material, such as biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP), polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and polycarbonate (page 2, lines 23-58). Lever also discloses a underlayer coating, the lacquer layer, comprises a polymer material which has crosslinkable functional groups, such as amine groups (page 3, lines 2-9), and an overlayer coating, the toner image receptive layer, comprises a polymer material, such as styrene butadiene copolymer, to which a toner image can be fused and fixed (page 4, line 42-page 5, line 3). The overlayer coating is substantially free of wax and particulate matter. The outer surface of the multilayer composite comprising printing media (page 3, lines 22-25).

Lever does not disclose the overlayer has to be free of particulate matter, however, particulate matter, is a well-known optional additive for the image receiving substrates. Addition of these additives depends on the application of the substrates.

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The absence of evidence that the claimed overlayer being free of particulate matter is critical. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to decide whether to use or not use the optional additives, such as particulate matter, when it is applicable. The cited document discloses a composition prepared from the same components as claimed in the present application except for the particular amounts and parameters. The claimed parameters are expressed differently and thus may be distinct from what is disclosed, therefore, it is incumbent upon applicants to establish that such difference is unobvious. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to employ the particular amounts and/or parameters as claimed, since it is well-established that merely selecting proportions and ranges is not patentable absent a showing of criticality. In re Becket, 33 USPQ 33, and In re Russell, 169 USPQ 426. Because Lever discloses a print media having a substrate coated with an underlayer and overlayer having the same materials, it is expected for the underlayer to have a high affinity for the substrate, for the toner to have a high affinity for toner and for the underlayer and overlayer to have high affinity for each other, absent any evidence to the contrary.

Response to Arguments

5. Arguments regarding the rejection made under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lever et al. EP 0458481 has been considered but are unpersuasive. Applicant argues Lever does not disclose a paper substrate having an underlayer and overlayer. Lever discloses a coated substrate suitable for printing a toner image thereon

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comprising a film or sheet made of cellulose (paper), which may also be inclusive of plastic material, such as biaxially oriented polypropylene (BOPP), polyethylene, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and polycarbonate (page 2, lines 23-58). Examiner interprets a sheet made of cellulose as paper.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lawrence Ferguson whose telephone number is 571-

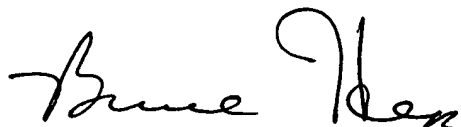
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272-1522. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye, can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


L. Ferguson
Patent Examiner
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